

MEETING NOTES

PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.pasadenacac.org

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Via Zoom Video/Teleconference

The 284th meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, via Zoom Video/Teleconference. The meeting notes from August 26, 2021, were approved without change. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the ground rules and agenda, which were accepted as proposed.

ATTENDEES *italicized*

PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena OEM
Ruth Askine
Diane Barnes, CTHS
Raul Camarillo, Harris Co. Pct. 2
Emilio Carmona
Azell Carter, City of Pasadena OEM
Monica De La Portilla
Tammy De Los Santos, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Ninfa Herrera, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Albert Gonzales
Rick Guerrero, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Mike Jackson
Chad Carson, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region

Luz Locke
Loretta McCarthy
Ellis Orozco
Ernesto Paredes
Margie Pena
Dominick Rezza
Giovanna Searcy
Leon Searcy
Richard Sims
Sue Sims
Joe Valdivia
Christina Womack, Chamber of Commerce
Jack Womack

Support

Diane Sheridan, Facilitator
Tiffany Miller, Secretary

Observers or Resources

Jerry Caraviotis, HCPCS
John Collins
Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College
MaryJane Mudd, EHCMA
Lauren Muirhead, San Jac Student
Christopher Thomas, Occidental Petroleum
David Wade, HCOHSEM
Blake White, HCOHSEM

CAC Plant Members

Afton Chemical, Hari Sundaram, Scott Kolb
Air Products, Brian Farhadi
Albemarle, Lisa Fruge, Alyssa Linares,
Doug Thompson
BASF, John Igoe for Wendel Langley

Chevron Pasadena Refinery, Celina O'Connor for Matt Postage, Becky Froedge, Rajni Yadav
Chevron Phillips, Chad Jennings
Enterprise Products, Mark Roberts, Ethyl, Hari Sundaram for Antonio Salinas
Evonik, Juan Soto for Nathan Locklar
Gulf Coast Authority, Phyllis Frank
INEOS Phenol, Derrill Pruitt for Amy Narvaez
Intercontinental Terminals, _____
KM Export Terminal, David Koetter
KM Liquids Terminal, Keith Cormier
LyondellBasell Refinery, Clint Titzman
OxyVinyls, Scott Halbrooks, Liliana Sarpong
PCI Nitrogen, _____
Sekisui, Jeff Thompson, Scott Stephens, Jenna Timtiman

What Plants Do to Control and Reduce Emissions

The CAC changed its original plans for the September meeting because the speaker on Effects of Pollution had a conflict and was rescheduled to December 2. In prelude to the October meeting on the Annual Report on Emissions, PCAC plants shared examples of what they have done or planning to do to control and reduce emissions.

- Use AVO (Auditory, Visual, Olfactory) techniques multiple times during a shift and investigate anything that is out of the norm.
- Steam injection valves are used on steam vents to recycle excess steam back into the process. This steam has a small amount of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs).
- Flammable gas monitors are positioned around the plant to quickly address spills.
- During the once every 10-year internal inspection of storage tanks, tanks are cleaned and then purged with nitrogen, to remove any remaining vapors. The nitrogen is then sent to the flare. The ten year time frame for internal inspections is the API (American Petroleum Institute) standard and external inspections are done on a more frequent basis.
- Use various types of equipment to reduce pollutants such as electrostatic precipitators, sulfur recovery unit, flares, and flare gas recovery unit.
- Installed carbon beds on atmospheric vents to capture pollutants.

- Actively monitoring flares by instrumentation can that determine what is being flared.
- LDAR (Leak Detection and Repair) program to monitor for any potential small leaks in piping and then repair.
- Modified production process to use less water initially and then recapture excess water at the end to reuse into the same process.
- Shrouds are placed over tanks while painting/coating maintenance activities are being performed.
- Installed domed roofs over tanks that help to reduce air emissions as well as rainwater falling on tanks that becomes wastewater to be disposed.
- Installed vapor control unit (VCU) for ship transfers where one hose pumps the product, and another hose captures the vapor and sends to VCU to be burned off, resulting in no emissions.
- Upgraded vapor control units (VCU) for tank transfers and added more to control tank emissions.
- Each employee is encouraged to have an environmental goal to carry out the plant goal of protecting the community.
- Modified Coker Drum Venting Process to use vacuum instead of high-pressure water to remove coke, thereby reducing emissions via steam venting.
- Company has committed capital expenditures to replace aging equipment with the newest technology and efficiency.
- Changing water seals to ones with a higher-pressure rating.
- Wet scrubbers are used to remove VOCs from the waste gas stream to reduce air emissions. The water is then sent to Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) for treatment.
- Vapor recovery system for storage tanks captures vapors and sends them back to the tank.
- Visually inspect the flare every morning to identify and troubleshoot any potential issues.
- Stormwater discharge sampling procedure: sample ahead of any anticipated rain at sample points before the permitted outfall so they can see if storms result in any spills.
- Modified procedures to load/unload catalyst more quickly during maintenance, shut down and start up activities, thus producing less emissions.
- Proper tuning of boiler heaters to improve combustion efficiency
- Third party is brought in to conduct vent stack testing and tuning to improve efficiency.
- Build and operate site to corporate standards which are more stringent than API standards.
- Use BTU analyzer to ensure complete combustion.
- Tanks are vented to a thermal oxidizer where NOx and VOCs are analyzed by a CEMS (continuous emissions monitoring system). The CEMS undergoes daily calibration checks and is calibrated quarterly.
- Use water scrubbers on tank vents and the resulting water is processed through the wastewater treatment system.
- Use burners that are designed and rated as emitting low NOx.
- Installed hydrocarbon detectors in various locations around the plant to detect liquid spills/releases.
- Marine based VCU which is inspected quarterly by a third party. Reduce temperature to reduce NOx emissions.
- Fence line monitoring for benzene helps find the source of those emissions more quickly, and whether the source is the plant or outside of the plant.
- 153 continuous LEL (lower explosive limit)/gas chromatographs around the process areas can send alarms to the control room.

- Baghouses are used in the production process to capture and reduce the particulate matter emitted. The differential pressure across the baghouses is monitored to determine the filter bag condition, and routine visible emission observations are conducted as defined in the plant permit.

UPDATES

Air Products - Brian Farhadi, Plant Manager, shared that Houston Wilderness will be planting 800 native *Super Tree* seedlings and some larger trees in the open green space at their facility on October 8 starting at 9:00 AM. More information on the Port of Houston TREES Program can be found here: <https://houstonwilderness.org/port-of-houston-trees-program>

City of Pasadena Food Drive- Jennifer Laird, Volunteer Pasadena Manager, shared information via email about the upcoming food drive and opportunities to volunteer. The Food Drive Collection point will be in the front of the Pasadena Convention Center (7902 Fairmont) on Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.pasadenatx.gov/fooddrive or contact Jennifer at jlaird@pasadenatx.gov.

Harris County Precinct 2- Raul Camarillo shared information about National Night out, which will be held on Tuesday, October 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm outside at the courthouse at 101 S. Richey Street in Pasadena.

LyondellBasell LaPorte Acetic Acid Unit Incident Update: Diane Sheridan said that an update from LyondellBasell La Porte about their July 27 incident will be shared with the group via email.

FACILITY UPDATE SUMMARY

Acronym List on PCAC website

Plant representatives reviewed highlights of the written reports projected on the screen, and they responded to questions. The update summary was mailed to attendees before the meeting and then to the membership on September 29. Direct questions to Diane Sheridan facilitator, dbsfacilitator@gmail.com, 281-326-5253.

In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 17 of 18 plants (None from PCI Nitrogen)
- **3** had reportable environmental incidents (1 each at Albemarle, Chevron Refinery, and LyondellBasell Houston Refinery)
- **1** had OSHA recordable injuries. (1 at Gulf Coast Authority)
- **13** had neither environmental nor safety incidents

14 plants had no environmental incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Afton Chemical | 7. Evonik | 13. OxyVinyls |
| 2. Air Products | 8. Gulf Coast Authority | 14. Sekisui |
| 3. BASF | 9. INEOS Phenol | |
| 4. Chevron Phillips | 10. Intercontinental Terminals | |
| 5. Enterprise Products | 11. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal | |
| 6. Ethyl | 12. Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal | |

16 plants had no safety incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 7. Enterprise Products | 13. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal |
| 2. Air Products | 8. Ethyl | 14. Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal |
| 3. Albemarle | 9. Evonik | 15. OxyVinyls |
| 4. BASF | 10. INEOS Phenol | 16. Sekisui |
| 5. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | |
| 6. Chevron Phillips | 12. LyondellBasell Houston Refinery | |

FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

Meeting Login begins at 5:45 pm. Meetings are from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference unless otherwise indicated.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – Annual Report on Emissions from PCAC Plants

- Data from PCAC plants will be compiled and presented to show Pasadena industry trends in the EPA Toxics Release Inventory releases to the air and the TCEQ air emissions inventory of criteria pollutants.
- Scott Kolb from Afton/Ethyl will present this year. Plants take turns presenting the data on behalf of PCAC industry.

Thursday, December 2, 2021 – Effects of Pollution on Health

- Blythe Mansfield, MD, Kelsey Seybold Medical Director for Occupational Medicine, will talk about what air pollution is, kinds of exposure, and specifics about the EPA’s criteria pollutants, benzene, and 1-3, butadiene.
- She also will describe environmental and occupational causes of health problems and a systematic approach to history taking and diagnosis of occupational and environmental illness. She also will describe EPA’s actions to advance environmental justice related to the topic.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – Plant Communication with Community When It Plans a Major Plant Maintenance Turnaround

DATES FOR 2021

Tues. Jan. 26
Tues. Feb. 23
Thurs. Mar. 25
Tues. Apr. 27

Tues. May 25
No June or July meetings
Thurs. Aug. 26
Tues. Sept. 28

Tues. Oct. 26
Thurs. Dec. 2 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
No December meeting

DATES FOR 2022

Tues. Jan. 25
Tues. Feb. 22
Thurs. Mar. 24
Tues. Apr. 26

Tues. May 24
No June or July meetings
Thurs. Aug. 25
Tues. Sept. 27

Tues. Oct. 25
Thurs. Dec. 1 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
No December meeting